

Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 241740Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607
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AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGC PINT EI
SUBJ: FINE GAEL CONVENTION STRESSES LAW AND ORDER

1. OVER WEEKEND OF MARCH 23/24, KNE GAEL PARTY HELD FIRST NORMAL CONVENTION SINCE IT TOOK OFFICE AS SENIOR PARTY IN FINE GAEL/ LABORCOALITION. (LAST YEAR'S CONVENTION WAS CANCELLED IN AFTER-MATH OF DUBLIN BOMBINGS.) POLITICIANSNATURALLY WATCHED THE EXERCISE CAREFULLY FOR HINTS OF NEW DIRECTIONS. THEY DID NOT LEARN MUCH. PMCOSGRAVE WAS THOROUGHLY IN CONTROL AND CLEARLY VERY PLEASED TO BE IN POWER. HE AND OTHER SPEAKJS TENDED TO CONGRATULATE THEMSELVES ON FACT THAT THE GOVERNING PARTIES ARE WORKING WELL TOGETHER, LIKE PREVIOUS IRISH COALITIONS. COSGRAVE HAD THE AUTHORITY OF A MAN WHO EXPECTS TO BE RUNNING THECOUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE PARTY, FOR A LONG TIME. (IT IS A REALISTIC EXPECTATION, GIVEN THE WAYNEW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN RIGGED TO HELP THE GOVT.)

2. PM COSGRAVE ALSO POINTED WITH PRIDSTO THE MODEST PROGRESS GOI HAS MADE TOWARD SOCIAL REFORM. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, HE JUSTIFIEDHHE CHANGE IN FINE GAEL'S CONSERVATISM AS A MEANS OF ATTAINING POWER, NOT AS A MEANS OF INCREASING XCIAL JUSTICE. LABOR PARTY SPOKESMEN ALWAYS PUT IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND,
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DESCRIBING POWER AS A MEAF TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL JUSTICE.

3. ON THE ECONOMY, COSGRAVE SAID THAT PRIME CAUSES OF INFLATION
WEJ NOW DOMESTIC RATHER THAN IMPORTED. HE WARNED THAT IRISHMEN
ARE NOW PAYING THEMSELVES TOO MUCH AND CSKING PRICING THEMSELVES
OUT OF THE WORLD MARKET.

4. MOST FREQUENT THEME IN THE CONVENTION WAS NED TO MAINTAIN LAW
AND ORDER, WHICH MEANS REPRESSING THE IRA. BOTH COSGRAVE AND
JUSTICE MINISTECCOONEY RETURNED TO THIS TIME AND AGAIN, ALWAYS TO
BURSTS OF APPLAUSE. THIS WAS THE ONLY TOPIC ON QICH COSGRAVE
HIMSELF SEEMED TO HAVE REALLY STRONG PERSONAL FEELINGS.MOORE

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